

Dear Director,

Privacy Act of 1974, as currently written, is a bad idea.

The Department of Transportation's proposed exemptions makes the title into a parody of itself.

The proposal uses open-ended terms like "associated information" and "proprietary information," which essentially place no limits on the Category of Records being tracked. Given the volume of personal information being stored, the "safeguards" described in this proposal are woefully insufficient; this will inevitably lead to privacy violations on a massive scale -- the recent theft of medical data and other sensitive personal information held by TriWest Corporation of "only" 500,000 military people is an example of the danger.

There is no method outlined to verify or challenge any data. Normal screwups and malicious actors would generate Kafka-esque torment for many innocent people. Secret snitches and untracable informants were a bad aspect of the old Soviet Union. They do not belong in our Country.

Abuses and thefts of databases are a daily headline in the newspapers. Setting up a database that is designed with no corrective procedure, with no accountability and no limits on intrusiveness is repugnant to common sense. It will do less than nothing to help security. It would bleed money away from any other security efforts, and it would waste security personnel's time in pointlessly scrutinizing innocent travelers.

For these reasons the proposed rule should be withdrawn.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Caloz